

## TO CHEAT CHAIR

Houser Planned to Kill Self in  
Wichita Jail.Weapons and Ground Glass  
Found in His Cell.SHERIFF DISCOVERED PLOT  
Also Planned to Kill His Wife,  
Police Declare.Mrs. Houser Will Go to California  
to Live.

Wichita, Kan., Nov. 24.—Art Houser, accused of heinous crimes in Topeka, Omaha, here and in numerous other places, had a well-laid plan to end his life just before he was taken away from the county jail here by officers from Omaha. Sheriff Frank Sarver frustrated the scheme by unexpectedly changing Houser's cell.

In the vacated cell, Sheriff Sarver found a razor, a pocket knife and a handful of ground glass. Tucked away under the quilts of the cell were three letters. One of these was addressed to Houser's mother, one to his wife and the third to Mrs. Sarver.

One of the letters follows:

Sunday, Nov. 21, 1915.  
"Mrs. Sarver, I thank you for being so good to me while I have been here. I could stand it if my wife would come and comfort me but she won't do it as you know. That is the reason I am taking my life. Good-bye."

"I ask you to let me go to see that each person gets these letters."

"This razor came from inside the jail out of a suitcase but I won't tell who gave it to me."

The first intimation that Houser intended to take his life was carried to Sheriff Sarver by Mrs. Houser. While she was visiting him Monday afternoon the prisoner waved something before her and whispered:

"Here's what will cheat Omaha."

Wife Became Suspicious.  
Mrs. Houser could not see what Houser held but she suspected he meant to take his life rather than go to Nebraska and the electric chair.

Later in the evening, when Houser had been moved, he told Mrs. Sarver that he merely was trying to frighten his wife when he waved a pocket knife before her earlier in the day.

Sheriff Sarver believes Houser intended to kill his wife and then commit suicide if given the slightest opportunity. Although he never admitted knowing his wife gave him up he is believed to have learned the truth through friends.

Sunday Houser begged Mrs. Sarver to allow his wife to enter his cell. This was denied as no visitor was permitted closer than six feet to the cage door. Monday afternoon Mrs. Sarver promised to let Mrs. Houser into her husband's cell. But Mrs. Houser was late in arriving and Mrs. Sarver was away from the jail when she came.

This absence is now believed to be the only thing that saved Mrs. Houser's life as there is little doubt in the minds of Sheriff and Mrs. Sarver that Houser meant to cut his wife's throat with the razor and then end his own life.

After the discovery of Houser's suicide plot he called Mrs. Sarver to his cell by a message saying he wanted to make a confession. This confession was merely a statement that his wife had not aided him in his plan to end his life.

Houser's last statement to Mrs. Sarver as she left his cell was:

"They haven't let me in the electric chair yet, and take it from me they ain't going to."

If given the slightest chance at Omaha, Houser will commit suicide, the sheriff believes. Warning of the plot discovered here was sent to the Nebraska authorities.

It is believed Houser got the razor and pocket knife from other prisoners in the county jail. He manufactured the powdered glass by breaking a drinking tumbler sent to him with his meals and crushing the fragments to fine bits on the steel floor of his cell.

Houser's farewell.  
Houser's last words upon leaving Wichita were, "So long, Ben." They were addressed to Assistant Police Chief Ben Hayes at the union station as he left for the train.

Omaha and L. T. Finn, a deputy sheriff, were starting with Houser for Nebraska, where he is to be tried for first degree murder.

Houser held out his hands, which were in handcuffs, and the assistant chief grasped the right hand with a brief, "So long, Art."

The parting was friendly, but it was noticeable that the customary "good luck," which officers usually add to their parting salutation to prisoners who are being taken away for trial was not spoken to Houser.

Houser had been on a visit to his home with his children to make her home with a brother.

Police Chief Hay indicated that because of the assistance which the woman was persuaded to give him in the plans for the capture of her husband, some provision would be made for her until she could join her brother. If Houser is convicted and put to death in the electric chair.

BISHOP MOORE DEAD

Stricken With Paralysis While Riding on a Train.

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## WHITLOCK AND HIS WIFE

IN NEW YORK; MINISTER

IS IN BETTER HEALTH

New York, Nov. 24.—Brand Whitlock, American minister to Belgium, and Mrs. Whitlock were met by a delegation from Toledo, Ohio, headed by Charles M. Milroy, mayor-elect, when they landed here today from the steamer Ryndam. Mr. Whitlock said although he was ill when he boarded the ship at Rotterdam, and the steamer encountered heavy weather throughout the voyage he felt much improved today.

Mr. and Mrs. Brand Whitlock.

Mr. Whitlock and his wife are expected to spend Thanksgiving day here, and will then proceed to Washington for a brief stay. From there they will go to Toledo and Cleveland, Ohio, where they will remain until from here December 28 to take up his duties in Belgium again. He said he was here chiefly to rest and visit his mother, and declined to discuss the war.

The Ryndam passed three floating mines shortly after sailing from Rotterdam. The first day out the vessel was hit by a mine, which swept away the two large electric signs which gave the vessel's name and calling port. A portion of the bridge was also carried away and several lifeboats were smashed.

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## REIGN OF ERROR

All Clarkson Armed Against

Night Riders' Band.

Attack on Missouri Town Fails

to Materialize.

ESCAPED MALCONTENTS HIDE

Shelter Sought Following At-

tack on Detectives.

Eight Men in Jail to Face

Murder Charge.

New Madrid, Mo., Nov. 24.—

Two deputy sheriffs today

brought to the New Madrid jail

alleged night riders who were

rounded up at Clarkson, Mo.,

Tuesday. Reports that five night

riders were wounded in the fight

Monday night near Clarkson were

unconfirmed today. All was

quiet at Clarkson today.

Clarkson, Mo., Nov. 24.—Almost all

Clarkson slept fully clothed and

heavily armed last night and an

armed guard kept watch on the out-

skirts of the city until daybreak, but

the so-called night riders, from whom

an attack was feared, failed to appear.

Eight men, to whose homes blood-

hounds led a posse yesterday, were in

the New Madrid, Mo., jail today sus-

pected of being members of the party

of night riders which early yesterday

fought a battle with six detectives in

a swamp near here, but all of these

prisoners denied they were members

of the attacking party today.

No trace of the five night riders

who are believed to have been wound-

ed in the battle could be found today.

Two detectives were wounded, though

not seriously, in the fight.

A ninth man arrested yesterday in

the Matien, Mo., jail, today admitted

he was the owner of the hat bearing

his name which was found on the

scene of the battle. He said, however,

the night riders had compelled him to

act as their messenger against his

will.

Marshall Norworthy of Clarkson

said the prisoners would not be

charged with attempted murder for

their alleged participation in the at-

tack on the detectives, and, in addi-

tion, would be held for federal au-

thorities in the event of a storm which

blackmail, if it were found that they

were responsible for any of the

threatening letters received by mer-

chants and land owners in this vicin-

ity.

The night riders, dissatisfied and

disguised farm laborers and tenants,

have committed numerous and various

crimes in the campaign for higher

wages, cheaper rentals and lower food

prices which they have been waging

for months.

The county and county authorities of

New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin

counties say they will not ask for aid

from the state militia until they have

used every local means of quelling the

disorders.

The Ryndam passed three floating

mines shortly after sailing from Rot-

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was hit by a mine, which swept away

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## POOR ROADS IN REPUBLIC CO.

A Lot of Good Roads Talk But Thus

Far It Is All on Paper.

Courtland, Kan., Nov. 24.—While

there has been good roads talk galore

the roads in Republic county are in

worse shape than ever. It is difficult

to get their grain to market on account

of poor roads.

The building which is owned by Rod-

erick Stover, of Albuquerque, N. M.,

sustained a loss of \$2,500. Dr. Eliza-

beth Todd, who has offices in the

building, and her daughter, lost most

of the personal belongings. What

was not lost was badly damaged by